Message Text

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C O R R E C T E D COPY (LINE 10 PARA 3 OMITTE)

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ELAB, US, KE

SUBJECT: VISIT OF US TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVE

- 1. AF HAS BEEN INFORMED OF VISIT TO KENYA OF ROBERT LONG, WILLIE COSTALES, ALPHA HUNTER, LAWRENCE THIBEAUX, MEMBERS OF INTERNATIONAL LONGSHOREMEN'S AND WAREHOUSEMEN'S UNION, AN INDEPENDENT UNION WHOSE PRESIDENT IS HARRY BRIDGES. THREE WEEK VISIT TO COMMERCE 19 FEB. VISIT IS PART OF PROGRAM IN WHICH RANK-AND-FILE STUDY LIVING AND WORKING CONDITIONS OF WORKERS IN OTHER COUNTRIES AND REPORT AT FOLLOWING ILWU NATIONAL CONVENTION.
- 2. BELIEVE BRIDGES HAS WRITTEN EMBOFF EDDY REQUESTING BRIEFING AND ASSISTANCE IN MEETING KENYAN TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES. ILWU REPS WILL CALL EMBASSY NLT 21 FEBRUARY FOR BRIEFING.

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3. IN MAKING APPOINTMENTS WITH KENYAN UNION REPRESENTATIVES EMBASSY SHOULD NOTE TO KENYANS THAT ILWU IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH AFL-CIO AND HAS BEEN OUT OF MAINSTREAM OF US LABOR SINCE 1940'S WHEN ILWU WAS EXPELLED FROM CIO FOR BEING UNDER COMMUNIST DOMINATION. MR. BRIDGES WAS RECENTLY AWARDED THE QUOTE ORDER OF FRIENDSHIP UNQUOTE BY THE USSR SUPREME SOVIET FOR HIS ROLE IN STRENGHTHENING

FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE US AND USSR. IN VIEW OF FOREGOING AND GIVEN KENYAN INTERNAL LABOR/POLITICAL RELATIONSHIPS EMBASSY MAY EXERCISE ITS DISCRETION IN DETERMINING APPROPRIATE LEVELS OF ASSISTANCE. VANCE

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TAGS: ELAB, OTRA, ETRD, US, KE, (LONG, ROBERT), (COSTALES, WILLIE), (HUNTER, ALPHA), (THIBEAUX, LAWRENCE)

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